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## SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES

## THE NEW ORLEANS ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

THE regular monthly meeting of the Academy was held at Tulane University, on Tuesday, January 20. Dr. Isadore Dyer, the president, presided and there was a large attendance of fellows and members.

The subjects of the meeting were: (1) a paper on "The Passive State of Metals," by Dr. B. P. Caldwell, professor of chemistry at Tulane. The speaker reviewed the different theories which have been brought forward to account for the facts of passivity from the time of Keir to the present, pointing out the facts in support of, and in opposition to, each theory. He also called attention to certain especially peculiar phenomena attendant upon the processes of passivating and activating, and in closing pointed out the industrial importance of scientific study of the problem of making iron and metals in general more resistant to corrosion.

The second paper was read by Dr. W. L. Owen, of the United States Bureau of Agriculture, upon the problem of the maintenance of soil fertility. The speaker brought out the fact that the problem seemed much more complex to-day than it did when Liebig made his celebrated contribution to the subject. The problem of the future, according to the speaker, will concern itself more with the detection of soil toxins and the best means of stimulating the various groups of soil bacteria than in the increased use of commercial fertilizers.

There was some discussion at the conclusion of these papers, in which Drs. Gustav Mann, C. C. Bass and J. H. Clo and other speakers participated.

R. S. COCKS,  
Secretary

## THE BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

THE ninety-fourth regular meeting of the Botanical Society of Washington was held in the Assembly Hall of the Cosmos Club, at 8 P.M., Tuesday, February 3, 1914. Messrs. Raymond B. Wilcox, Arno Viehoever and Henry Pittier were elected to membership.

The scientific program was as follows:

*Brief notes and Reviews of Literature.*

Dr. David Griffiths reviewed a prospectus of a stock company which has been organized in Australia for the purpose of eradicating the cactus, which is there considered a serious pest.

Mr. S. C. Stuntz called attention to the return from Brazil of Mr. A. D. Shamel, who has been there with Messrs. Dorsett and Poponoe, who are studying methods of tropical fruit culture and introducing the varieties that may be of value in this country. Mr. Shamel brought back over 1,100 photographs which have thus far been taken by them, and prints of these will soon be available for study at the Office of Foreign Seed and Plant Introduction for those who are interested.

*A Report on the Atlanta Meeting of the Botanical Society of America:* DR. R. H. TRUE.

Dr. True gave a report on the attendance at the meetings and number and character of the papers read before the different sections, with special notes regarding those of a botanical character.

*The Relation Between Transpiration and the Absorption of Inorganic Constituents by Plants:* DR. H. HASSELBRING.

Published in *Bot. Gaz.*, 57: 72-73, January, 1914.

*A Fertile Hybrid Between Tripsacum and Euphonia:* G. N. COLLINS. (With lantern.)

To be published in the *Journal of the Washington Academy*.

*An Attempt at Revegetation on Kodiak Island, Alaska:* DR. WALTER H. EVANS.

The conditions on Kodiak Island following the eruption of Mt. Katmai in May, 1912, were described and an account was given of experiments in restoring the meadows and pastures of the experiment station on that island.

The level land was covered with the ash, or, more correctly, the debris from the explosion, to a depth of 12 to 14 inches, and practically all vegetation was destroyed. The only natural revegetation was where hummocks of earth brought the original soil nearer the surface or where plants came through cracks that formed in the deposit during the summer season. In these places fireweed, *Epilobium angustifolium*, and Alaskan red-top, *Calamagrostis langsdorffii*, have come up quite abundantly.

In gardens and wherever an especial effort was made to mix the deposit with the underlying soil, better growth was reported than normal, the ash appearing to have been of benefit, probably by reason of the improved physical condition of the soil.

P. L. RICKER,  
Corresponding Secretary